

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 SS-15 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:CTSYLVESTER:EI

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APPROVED BY IO/UNP:LTSTULL

ARA/USOAS - MR. MONSMA (SUBS)

ARA/CAR - MR. BURKE (SUBS)

ARA/NC - MR. STOCKMAN (SUBS)

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P R 181821Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164689

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

REF: USUN 2909

1. ANNUAL CUBAN ATTEMPT TO HAVE UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (DE-COLONIZATION COMMITTEE) RECOMMEND THAT PUERTO RICO BE DECLARED NON SELF-GOVERNING HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY REQUESTS FROM TWO PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE. THEY WOULD NOT ONLY REQUEST COMMITTEE REINSTATE PR ON LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BUT WOULD RECITE SUPPOSED EVILS OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT INCLUDING PROPOSAL FOR PR SUPERPORT AND REFINERY. USUN IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH FRIENDLY DELS TO TRY TO PREVENT THEIR APPEARANCE WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE SUBSTANCE OF ISSUE AND ABRABE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO.

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2. COMMITTEE IS NOW IN PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTION OF WHETHER TO GRANT HEARING.

3. DEPT UNDERSTANDS FROM USUN THAT VENEZUELAN DEL NOT INCLINED TO HELP AND HAS INTIMATED THAT APPEARANCE OF TWO PR INDEPENDENTISTAS WOULD BE HARMLESS.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE APPROACH TO APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN

MFA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) WE REGARD CONSIDERATION BY THE COMITE OF 24 OF PUERTO RICAN STATUS AS INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF US AND PUERTO RICO;

(B) WE CONSIDER THAT THIS ISSUE WAS DEFINITELY SETTLED IN 1953 BY THE UNGA WHEN GA RES 748 WAS ADOPTED RECOGNIZING THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAD EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION; A RIGHT WHICH HAS BEEN EXERCISED PERIODICALLY SINCE THEN THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS.

(C) BASIC ISSUE OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL STATUS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY PREJUDICED IF COMMITTEE WERE TO GIVE HEARING TO INDEPENDENCE LEADERS.

(D) WE HOPE GOV WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ISSUE IS NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CUBA WHICH HAS CHOSEN TO RAISE MATTER BUT IS OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN PR AND THE US.

(E) IN CONSULTATIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN NY, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR GOV SUPPORT FOR US POSITION. ROGERS

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